

Public Participation Fact Sheet

Roanoke River Watershed Clean up Plan

Why Do a Clean up Plan (TMDL Implementation Plan)? Several streams (including the Roanoke River) have been assessed as being “impaired”, meaning they do not meet one or more current water quality standards. A Clean up Plan is a requirement of Virginia’s 1997 Water Quality Monitoring, Information, and Restoration Act (WQMIRA), which directs the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to “develop and implement a plan to achieve fully supporting status for impaired waters”. By developing a Clean up Plan, a community has a better opportunity to receive state, federal, and private grant funds to restore water quality.

How Can You Participate in the Clean up Plan Process? The primary means of public participation in this Clean up Plan process will be through one of four working groups; Agricultural, Residential, Business and Government. The working groups provide citizens and watershed stakeholders a venue for active participation in the planning process. Each working group will study the problems and propose potential solutions. They will report their findings and suggestions to a steering committee to be considered for inclusion in the final Clean up Plan. Strong public participation in these groups ensures a final plan driven by local input and concerns.

What will the Agricultural Working Group Address? The Agricultural Working Group will concentrate on the following identified problems contributing to excessive sediment and bacteria from agricultural and rural residential areas:

- Lack of streamside vegetation
- Livestock access to streams
- Livestock waste management
- Agricultural runoff
- Failing septic systems and straight pipes

What will the Residential Working Group Address? The Residential Working Group will concentrate on the following identified problems contributing to excessive sediment and bacteria from urban and residential and commercial areas:

- Lack of streamside vegetation
- Stream channel modifications
- Illicit connections/discharges
- Increasing development and peak flows from storm water runoff with residential construction
- Pet wastes
- Litter
- Pollutant buildup on impervious surfaces
- Enforcement of erosion and sediment control regulations

For more information, please contact Mary Dail, DEQ, mary.dail@deq.virginia.gov, 540.562.6715

What will the Business Working Group Address?

The Business Working Group will concentrate on the following identified problems contributing to excessive sediment and bacteria from commercial areas:

- Lack of streamside vegetation
- Stream channel modifications
- Illicit connections/discharges
- managing peak flows from storm water runoff
- Failing septic systems from businesses
- Litter
- Pollutant buildup on impervious surfaces
- Enforcement of erosion and sediment control regulations

What will the Government Working Group Do?

The Government Working Group will concentrate on the availability of local, state and federal agencies' resources for addressing the following aspects of the Clean-up Plan:

- Funding sources and technical resources
- Identify additional programs/technical resources
- Identify lead agencies for agricultural, residential and business water quality improvement efforts
- Consider regulatory controls currently in place that may compel water quality improvement in the impaired watersheds

What will each Working Group Do? Working Groups will perform the following tasks related to the identified problems:

- Identify appropriate best management practices (BMPs) or other corrective actions.
- Recommend sites for installation of BMPs or other corrective actions.
- Evaluate technical assistance needed and how to administer assistance.
- Identify constraints faced by stakeholders in correcting identified problems.
- Set measurable milestones and prioritize resources.
- Identify potential sources of funding for BMPs or other implementation measures.
- Develop a strategy to engage stakeholders in implementing the needed changes.

Each Working Group will meet 1 to 2 times over the next few months and will report its information needs, progress, and recommendations to the Steering Committee.

What does the Steering Committee Do? The Steering Committee, composed of representatives from DCR, DEQ, Working Group representatives, NRCS, Dept. of Health, local govt., SWCD, and stakeholders, is charged with the following roles and duties:

Roles

- Listen to local community, including working groups, and incorporate ideas and concerns into the Clean up Plan development process

For more information, please contact Mary Dail, DEQ, mary.dail@deq.virginia.gov, 540.562.6715

- Serve as local ambassadors and information sources for own constituency group(s) and the whole community
- Guide and review the final Implementation Plan to be written by the Louis Berger Group, Inc.

Duties

- Become familiar with TMDL program and local TMDLs
- Participate in Steering Committee and Working Group meetings
- Be open to considering a wide range of corrective action options
- Evaluate tradeoffs among various proposed options and work towards consensus
- Assist in identifying and securing funding for implementation
- Initiate implementation upon completion of the plan
- Track implementation and water quality improvements and guide adjustments to implementation, as needed

Working with the Resource Team, the Steering Committee will incorporate Working Group recommendations into the Upper Roanoke River Watershed Clean-up Plan. The Resource Team includes representatives from the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and of contracted members of the Louis Berger Group, Inc.